

Southeast Maricopa / Northern Pinal County Area Transportation Study

DRAFT
WORKING PAPER
Existing and Future
Socioeconomic Data





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Draft Working Paper

Existing & Future Socioeconomic Data

Prepared for

Maricopa Association of Governments

Central Arizona Association of Governments

Arizona Department of Transportation

Prepared by



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Existing & Future Socio-Economic Data

1. BACKGROUND

The Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County Area Transportation Study (SEMNPTS) is a project jointly sponsored by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), the Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG), and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

The purposes of this study are to document the transportation relationships between Maricopa and Pinal Counties, examine the long-range transportation needs of the study area, and identify realistic projects to address the area needs. Ultimately, the projects identified in the study will be evaluated in a regional context in the MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) process. Pinal County projects will be used by CAAG and Pinal County in their long range planning. Recommendations affecting current or potential future state facilities will be considered by ADOT.

The Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County Area Transportation Study is separated into three phases.

- 1. Review existing conditions and trends; document future travel demand and issues.
- 2. Identify and evaluate transportation improvement options.
- 3. Develop a list of future transportation needs for the study area.

In order to accomplish these three phases, the project includes a number of work tasks, which describe specific elements of work. During the course of the project, Working Papers will be prepared to document the results of certain work tasks. These working papers are in draft form, subject to review and comment. These working papers will form the basis of the final report.

The working papers to be produced and the task they are associated with are summarized below.

Task 3 – Working Paper - Review of Other Studies

Task 4 – Working Paper - Socio-economic Data

Task 5 – Working Paper - Transportation Conditions

Task 6 – Working Paper - Transportation Issues

Task 7 – Working Paper - Transportation Options and Evaluation

Task 8 – Working Paper - Transportation Recommendations

This is document presents Working Paper - Existing and Future Socio-economic Data.

2. INTRODUCTION

The basis for planning transportation relies on an assessment of future residential and commercial growth patterns. This working paper describes the process used and the socioeconomic data developed for the analysis of future transportation needs for the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County Area Transportation Study (SEMNPTS). Also covered is the socioeconomic data and analysis necessary to assess location and potential impacts to Title VI/Environmental Justice populations.

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) produces projections of population, housing units and employment for Maricopa County by Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) in five-year increments. The currently adopted numbers were developed in 1997. The projections are currently being updated by MAG, but because the Department of Economic Security has not yet adopted County control totals, MAG will produce a draft interim dataset. It is anticipated that the next set of DES projections will be adopted in Spring 2003.

For this study, it was necessary to assemble the best available data and provide a series of reasonable and acceptable socioeconomic projections for different growth scenarios in order to estimate travel demand. MAG provided the base datasets currently in use in the update process mentioned above. These included General Plan, Existing Land Use, and Large-scale Development GIS databases.

MAG also provided a series of trip generation files that represented a trend/buildout and two interim scenarios. The buildout scenario was derived from General Plan information in consultation with the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee (POPTAC). The two interim scenarios were interpolated from a base-year 2000 dataset and the buildout numbers. The buildout scenario contained a population of nearly 8.2 million and was referred to as "8.2". The interpolated datasets totaled approximately 5.3 and 6.6 million population.

For Pinal County, the recently completed Pinal County Transportation Study was used as a resource for the socio-economic data. The Pinal County Transportation Study was based on alternative socio-economic scenarios developed in conjunction with the travel demand forecasting model. The portion of the Pinal County Transportation Study data covering the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County Area Transportation Study area was utilized to develop scenarios for this analysis.

The SEMNPTS area is shown in Figure 1 with the focus area and model area identified. The focus area, as the name implies, will be the focus of the analysis for the study, while the model area represents the larger geographic area that influences the focus area.

Study Area Area of Influence Focus Area Southeast Maricopa / Northern Pinal County **Area Transportation Study**

Figure 1: Study Area

3. BASE YEAR 2000 SOCIOECONOMIC DATA

Base year 2000 socioeconomic data was provided by MAG. The data was provided by traffic analysis zone, and included resident population, group quarters' population, resident households, group quarter households, dwelling units and employment by type. The population and housing figures by TAZ were based on Census 2000 data. In addition to the TAZ tabulation, MAG also aggregates population and employment data by regional analysis zone (RAZ) and metropolitan planning area (MPA). A RAZ is a summation of several TAZ's aggregated together to simplify reporting data. An MPA designates the planning area for each jurisdiction and includes incorporated and unicorporated areas.

3.1 POPULATION

Table 1 presents a summary of the year 2000 population data for the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County study area. As noted in the table, only a portion of Chandler and Mesa are included in the study area. The study area population within Maricopa County is 385,252 and within Pinal County is 148,902 for a total study area population of 534,154. The total population for all of Maricopa County and Northern Pinal County in the year 2000 is 3,135,944.

Table 1: Year 2000 Population-Study Area

MPA	POPULATION ¹
Chandler	146,156
Gilbert	119,157
Maricopa County	8,480
Mesa	102,512
Queen Creek	8,947
Apache Junction	40,461
Coolidge	8,470
Florence	15,652
Pinal County-Focus Area ²	7,562
Pinal County-Model Area ³	76,757
Subtotal Maricopa County	385,252
Subtotal Pinal County	148,902
TOTAL STUDY AREA	534,154
TOTAL REGION	3,135,944

¹Population figures do not include seasonal and transient population. MPA totals cover only the portion within study area

²Covers unincorporated areas within Focus Area.

³Covers the portion of Model Area not included in Focus Area. Includes Casa Grande, Superior, and portions of Eloy as well as unincorporated areas.

Year 2000 population distribution patterns in the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County area are presented in Figure 2. The highest population densities (500 persons per square mile) are found primarily in the northern and western portions of the study area, which reflects a pattern of growth radiating out from the core area of the region. This includes areas of Chandler, Gilbert, and Mesa. Much of the total acreage in the study area still has relatively low densities (0-10 persons per square mile). Some of these low-density areas will remain so, but large areas of land are available for development especially in southeastern Maricopa County and northeastern Pinal County.

3.2 EMPLOYMENT

Table 2 presents a summary of the year 2000 employment data for the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County study area. As noted in the table, only a portion of Chandler and Mesa are included in the study area. The study area employment within Maricopa County is 129,427 and within Pinal County is 58,776 for a total study area employment of 188,203. The total employment for all of Maricopa County and Northern Pinal County in the year 2000 is 1,640,297.

Table 2: Year 2000-Employment-Study Area

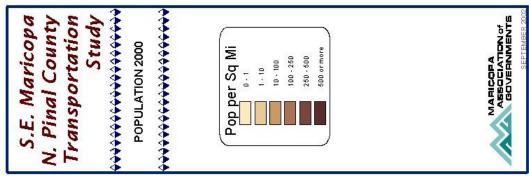
MPA	EMPLOYMENT ¹
Chandler	48,726
Gilbert	34,996
Maricopa County	1,394
Mesa	41,632
Queen Creek	2,679
Apache Junction	13,280
Coolidge	5,104
Florence	3,502
Pinal County-Focus Area ²	2,019
Pinal County-Model Area ³	34,871
Subtotal Maricopa County	129,427
Subtotal Pinal County	58,776
TOTAL STUDY AREA	188,203
TOTAL REGION	1,640,297

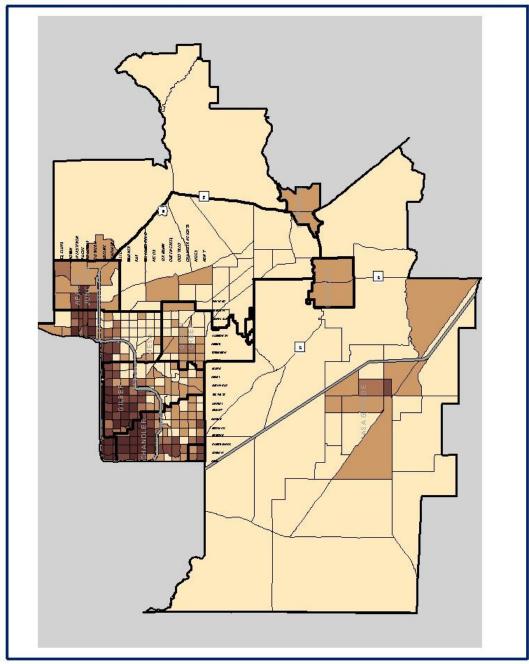
¹MPA totals cover only the portion within study area

²Covers unincorporated areas within Focus Area.

³Covers the portion of Model Area not included in Focus Area. Includes Casa Grande, Superior, and portions of Eloy as well as unincorporated areas.

Figure 2 - Population Density Year 2000





Year 2000 employment distribution patterns in the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County area are shown in Figure 3. The employment shows a pattern similar to that of population. The highest densities are found in a few zones along the north and west edges of the study area. There is very limited employment in the unincorporated areas of Pinal County.

4. ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS

The interpolated datasets noted in Section 2. were refined with input from member agency planning staff. The goal was to create scenarios that represent two different points for the development of the region without necessarily defining a specific reference year. This section describes the process used to develop the alternative scenarios.

4.1 METHODOLOGY

The data provided by MAG was summarized by jurisdiction and provided to member agency staff for their review. Materials included maps and tables of the housing units and employment by TAZ, as well as maps of approved and/or planned development projects from the MAG database. Agency staffs were provided the opportunity to review the materials and return comments electronically or to meet to discuss the data in detail.

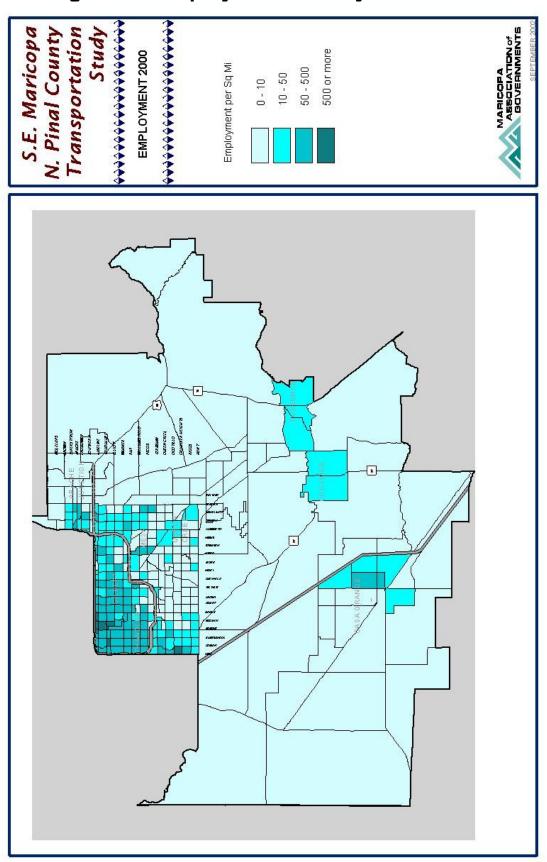
Most of the member agencies felt that the approved and planned development projects represented the areas most likely to develop in the near future. Most were also fairly certain that the current incorporated area of the jurisdiction would be fully developed in the foreseeable future.

The first alternative, Scenario 1, represents the point at which all known projects, much of the incorporated areas, and a small percentage of the unincorporated areas (but within the MPA) are developed. The second alternative, Scenario 2, represents a point, at which, the remainder of the incorporated areas and most of the unincorporated areas within the MPA are developed.

Areas with no specific development plans were assumed to 'fill in' at a slightly lower rate than areas with development plans. Though large tracts of land in unincorporated areas are attractive to developers of planned communities, it is difficult to predict which areas will be chosen first. Preference was given to those areas with development plans.

Many of the jurisdictions felt that their current incorporated area would be built out in the foreseeable future, probably representing scenario 1, and were less concerned with the unincorporated areas. Scenario 2 was seen as the point at which the General Plans of most cities and towns are very nearly built out and most unincorporated areas have been

Figure 3 – Employment Density Year 2000



incorporated into the MPA. Therefore, the incremental growth for Scenario 2 involved areas that are currently unincorporated.

Many of the jurisdiction's General Plans include a significant amount of commercial development; to the extent that a "build out" of these plans likely reflects more jobs in the region than can reasonably be absorbed. The year 2000 data indicates there were approximately 1.3 jobs per housing unit, while for the buildout scenario (8.2) that figure is 2.2. That reflects a 400% increase in jobs, but only a 230% increase in housing. In consultation with MAG staff, it was decided that the ratio should remain at or near 1.4 jobs per housing unit.

The result of consultations with agency staff and review of General Plan documents reduced the employment totals. In areas where the General Plan shows employment numbers at buildout that are below projections for the MAG buildout dataset, the numbers were adjusted to be more consistent with the General Plan. The remainder of the 'excess' employment was reduced in proportion to the relative growth in each area, with a slightly higher reduction for those areas not currently incorporated or planned.

The resulting regional population covering all of Maricopa County and Northern Pinal County for the two scenarios is 5.3 million and 6.6 million.

4.2 DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS

4.2.1 Population

Table 3 presents a summary of the Scenario 1 population data for the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County study area. As noted in the table, only a portion of Chandler and Mesa are included in the study area. The study area population within Maricopa County is 575,689 and within Pinal County is 295,894 for a total study area population of 871,583. This represents a 63 percent increase compared to 2000. Certain jurisdictions including Gilbert, Queen Creek, and Florence as well as unincorporated Pinal County areas are expected to experience higher growth rates. Compared to 2000, the Pinal County part of the study area experiences an increase of 99 percent, while the Maricopa County portion increases 49 percent. In terms of absolute numbers, the Pinal County area increases by 146,992 and the Maricopa County area by 190,437. As shown in Table 3, this scenario corresponds to a population of 5,257,336 in all of Maricopa County and Northern Pinal County.

MPA	POPULATION ¹
Chandler	174,651
Gilbert	205,726
Maricopa County	8,875
Mesa	144,328
Queen Creek	42,109
Apache Junction	56,424
Coolidge	11,512
Florence	29,601
Pinal County-Focus Area ²	62,587
Pinal County-Model Area ³	135,770
Subtotal Maricopa County	575,689
Subtotal Pinal County	295,894
TOTAL STUDY AREA	871,583
TOTAL REGION	5,257,336

¹Population figures do not include seasonal and transient population. MPA totals cover only the portion within study area

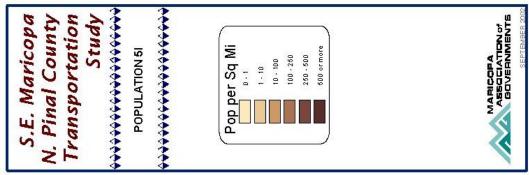
The population distribution patterns in the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County area for Scenario 1 are presented in Figure 4. The highest population densities (500 persons per square mile) continue southeasterly in Maricopa County compared to the year 2000. Significant density increases are shown along the Hunt Highway corridor in Pinal County. However, like the year 2000, much of the total acreage in the study area still has relatively low densities (0-10 persons per square mile).

Table 4 presents a summary of the Scenario 2 population data for the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County study area. As noted in the table, only a portion of Chandler and Mesa are included in the study area. The study area population within Maricopa County is 792,194 and within Pinal County is 518,171 for a total study area population of 1,310,365. This represents a 145 percent increase compared to 2000 and a 50 percent increase over scenario 1. Gilbert and Queen Creek as well as unincorporated Pinal County areas continue to experience higher growth rates. Compared to 2000, the Pinal County part of the study area experiences an increase of 248 percent, while the Maricopa County portion increases 106 percent. In terms of absolute numbers, the Pinal County area increases by 369,269 and the Maricopa County area by 406,942. As shown in Table 4, this scenario corresponds to a population of 6,641,116 in all of Maricopa County and Northern Pinal County.

²Covers unincorporated areas within Focus Area.

³Covers the portion of Model Area not included in Focus Area. Includes Casa Grande, Superior, and portions of Eloy as well as unincorporated areas.

Figure 4 - Population Density for Scenario 1



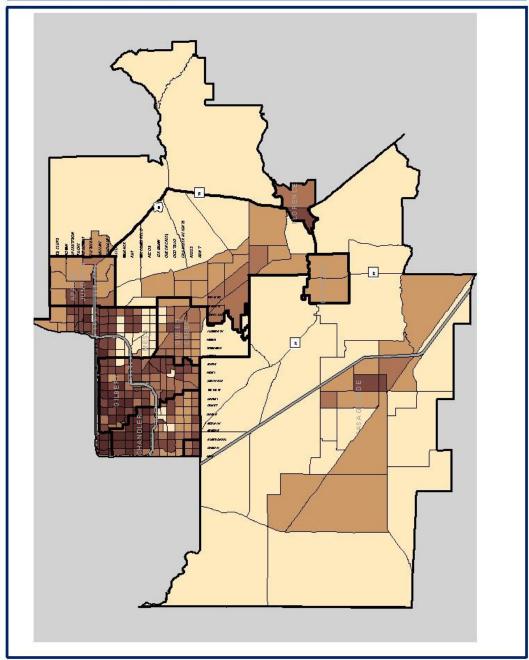


Table 4: Scenario 2 Population-Study Area

MPA	POPULATION ¹
Chandler	214,855
Gilbert	280,857
Maricopa County	9,944
Mesa	203,890
Queen Creek	82,648
Apache Junction	63,155
Coolidge	13,295
Florence	34,189
Pinal County-Focus Area ²	174,647
Pinal County-Model Area ³	232,794
Subtotal Maricopa County	792,194
Subtotal Pinal County	518,171
TOTAL STUDY AREA	1,310,365
TOTAL REGION	6,641,116

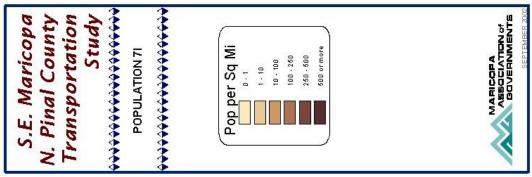
¹Population figures do not include seasonal and transient population. MPA totals cover only the portion within study area

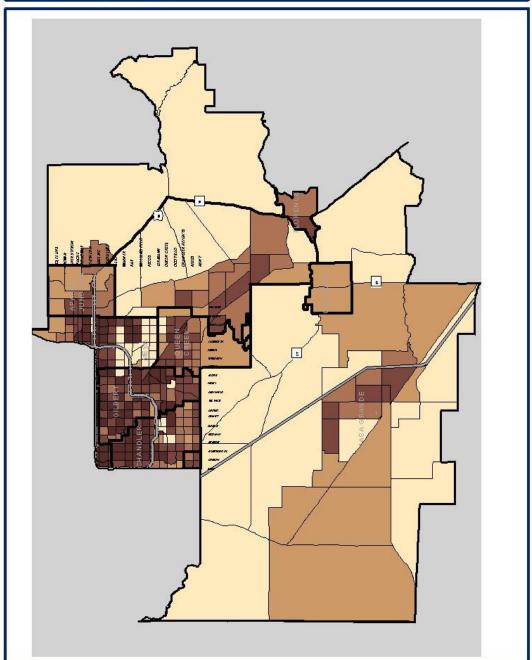
The population distribution patterns in the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County area for Scenario 2 are presented in Figure 5. The highest population densities (500 persons per square mile) continue the pattern shown in Scenario 1 and expand southeasterly in Maricopa County compared to the year 2000. This includes further density increases along the Hunt Highway corridor in Pinal County, Apache Junction, and Casa Grande. As in Scenario 1, there continues to be significant acreage in the study area that still has relatively low densities (0-10 persons per square mile).

²Covers unincorporated areas within Focus Area.

³Covers the portion of Model Area not included in Focus Area. Includes Casa Grande, Superior, and portions of Eloy as well as unincorporated areas.

Figure 5: Population Density Scenario 2





4.2.2 Employment

Table 5 presents a summary of the Scenario 1 employment data for the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County study area. As noted in the table, only a portion of Chandler and Mesa are included in the study area. The study area employment within Maricopa County is 302,282 and within Pinal County is 100,880 for a total study area employment of 403,162. This represents a 114 percent increase compared to 2000. Gilbert and Queen Creek as well as unincorporated Pinal County areas show higher growth rates. The regional total employment for Maricopa County and Northern Pinal County is 2,882,446.

Table 5: Scenario 1 Employment-Study Area

MPA	EMPLOYMENT ¹
Chandler	82,864
Gilbert	107,015
Maricopa County	1,394
Mesa	89,280
Queen Creek	22,003
Apache Junction	15,151
Coolidge	4,135
Florence	9,787
Pinal County-Focus Area ²	8,275
Pinal County-Model Area ³	63,532
Subtotal Maricopa County	302,556
Subtotal Pinal County	100,880
TOTAL STUDY AREA	403,162
TOTAL REGION	2,882,446

¹MPA totals cover only the portion within study area

The Scenario 1 employment distribution patterns in the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County area are shown in Figure 6. Increased employment densities are found along the Hunt Highway Corridor and in Apache Junction compared to the year 2000. In addition, employment densities in Southeast Maricopa County south of the Loop 202 freeway increase significantly.

²Covers unincorporated areas within Focus Area.

³Covers the portion of Model Area not included in Focus Area. Includes Casa Grande, Superior, and portions of Eloy as well as unincorporated areas.

Figure 6: Employment Density Scenario 1

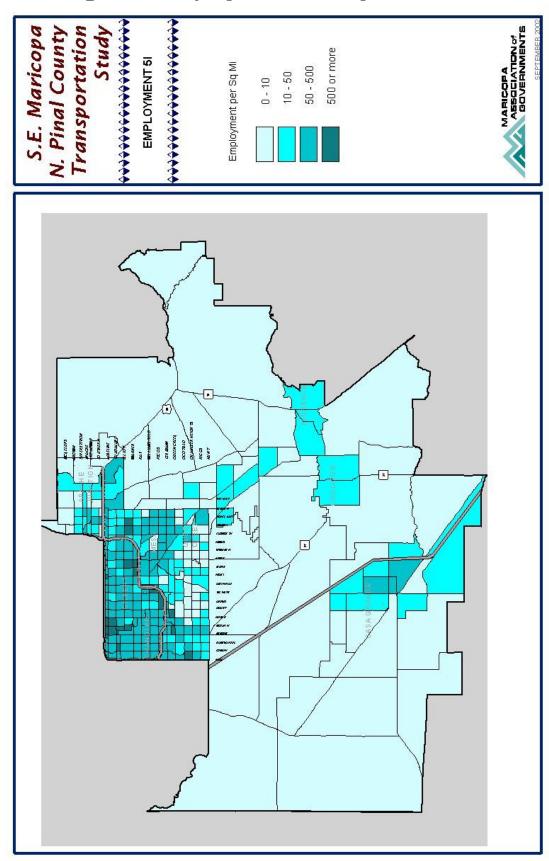


Table 6 presents a summary of the Scenario 2 employment data for the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County study area. As noted in the table, only a portion of Chandler and Mesa are included in the study area. The study area employment within Maricopa County is 410,589 and within Pinal County is 185,080 for a total study area employment of 595,669. This represents a 216 percent increase compared to 2000 and a 48 percent increase over scenario 1. Gilbert and Queen Creek as well as unincorporated Pinal County areas show higher growth rates. With Scenario 2, the regional total employment for Maricopa County and Northern Pinal County is 3,599,007.

Table 6: Scenario 2 Employment-Study Area

MPA	EMPLOYMENT ¹
Chandler	107,238
Gilbert	123,264
Maricopa County	1,394
Mesa	140,570
Queen Creek	38,122
Apache Junction	23,872
Coolidge	6,839
Florence	16,188
Pinal County-Focus Area ²	28,049
Pinal County-Model Area ³	110,133
Subtotal Maricopa County	410,589
Subtotal Pinal County	185,080
TOTAL STUDY AREA	595,669
TOTAL REGION	3,599,007

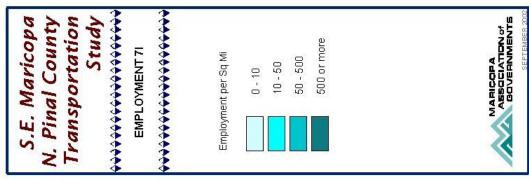
¹MPA totals cover only the portion within study area

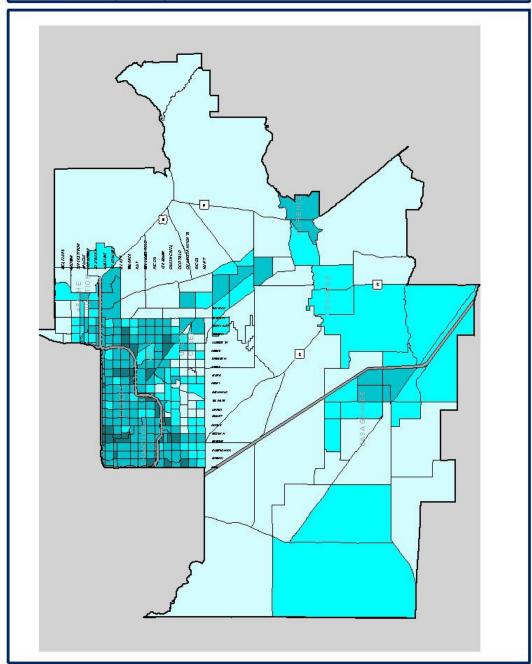
The scenario 2 employment distribution patterns in the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County area are shown in Figure 7. Most of the employment density increases occur in Pinal County.

²Covers unincorporated areas within Focus Area.

³Covers the portion of Model Area not included in Focus Area. Includes Casa Grande, Superior, and portions of Eloy as well as unincorporated areas.

Figure 7: Employment Density Scenario 2





4.3 OTHER TRAFFIC MODEL DATA

To derive population and complete the process of converting the two scenarios into EMME2 trip generation inputs several other variables were incorporated. These variables were adjusted in the same proportion as the population and employment for the two scenarios compared to the numbers provided in the 5.2M and 7.2M interpolated datasets. For example, housing types, employment types, and income were taken from the interpolated datasets and adjusted based on the new TAZ figures for population and total employment. The complete list of EMME2 trip generation inputs is shown in Table 7.

Table 7: MAG EMME2 Socioeconomic Data

MAG EMME2 Socioeconomic Data Input	File Fo	rmat
FIELD	START	LENGTH
Year	1	6
Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ)	7	6
District	13	6
MPA	19	A3
Resident population in households	22	6
Resident population in Group Quarters	28	6
Transient population	34	6
Seasonal population	40	6
Number of Residential households	46	6
Number of Group Quarter households	52	6
Number of transient households	58	6
Number of seasonal households	64	6
Other employment	70	6
Public employment	76	6
Retail employment	82	6
Office employment	88	6
Industrial employment	94	6
Number of households with income \$0-15k	100	6
Number of households with income \$15? 25k	106	6
Number of households with income \$25? 35k	112	6
Number of households with income \$35? 50k	118	6
Number of households with income \$50k+	124	6
Total Area (sq mi)	130	F8.2
Office Area (sq mi)	138	F8.2
Post HS Enroll	146	6
Retirement zone flag	152	6
Sky Harbor Enplanements	158	6
Number of dwelling units age 0? 9 (years)	164	6
Number of dwelling units age 10? 19 (years)	170	6
Number of dwelling units age 20? 30 (years)	176	6
Number of dwelling units age 30+ (years)	182	6
Number of multifamily dwelling units	188	6
Number of single family dwelling units	194	6

5. TITLE VI AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS

The purpose of Title VI and Environmental Justice regulation is to ensure that public facility projects are not developed at the expense of those populations with limited resources for self-advocacy. Specifically, all federally funded projects must demonstrate that "minority" and "low-income" populations have been identified, brought into the process and that the negative impacts of the project should not disproportionately affect these groups.

Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act is intended to ensure that "no person, on the ground of race color or national origin, be excluded from participating in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination" under any program or activity receiving Federal Aid. Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice signed by President Clinton in February 1994 directs that programs, policies, and activities not have a disproportionately large and adverse human health and environmental effect on minority and low-income populations. US DOT ORDER 5680-1 addresses the process by which the US DOT will implement the principals of the law. In recent years there has been increased attention and focus on ensuring equity, environmental justice and Title VI compliance in the delivery of government programs.

To be consistent with the requirements of Title VI and the Executive Order for Environmental Justice, the demographic characteristics of the study area population were examined to document whether Title VI populations were located in the study area, and if so, the location. The following demographic variables were considered:

Race (percent minority)
Age (percent age 60 and older)
Mobility disability (prevalence of persons with mobility or self-care limitations)
Low income (as defined by federal poverty guidelines)
Female head of household (percent single female parent)

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued Policy Directive 15, Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, in 1997, establishing five minimum categories for data on race.

Black - a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

Hispanic - a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Asian - a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent.

American Indian and Alaskan Native - a person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

Mobility Disability has been defined as the populations of persons, 16 years of age and older, who have been identified as having a mobility or self-care limitation due to a health condition. These health conditions are further defined as having lasted six or more months and have made it difficult to travel outside the home unassisted.

Low-income populations are defined as households that fall below the federal poverty guidelines defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For purposes of this study, Census 2000 STF3 data was collected and mapped at the census tract level. The poverty guidelines are presented in Table 8.

Table 8: 2001 HHS Poverty Guidelines

2001 HHS Poverty Guidelines			
48 Contiguous States and D.C.			
Size of Family Unit	Family Income		
1	8,590		
2	11,610		
3	14,630		
4	17,650		
5	20,670		
6	23,690		
7	26,710		
8	29,730		
For each additional person, add	3,020		

Source: Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 33, February 16, 2001, pp. 10695-10697

Figures 8-12 present the minority, disabled, female single head of household, poverty, and elderly groups for the study area.

More than half of the study area has a minority population of 35 percent or more with a significant portion more than 50 percent. Except for approximately 13 square miles, all of this area is in Pinal County.

The majority of the disabled population (25%-35%) is in Pinal County in Apache Junction, Coolidge, east of SR 79, and west of I-10.

The highest single female head of household (>55%) occurs on the Gila River Indian Community. The next highest areas occur throughout the study area with portions in most of the incorporated areas.

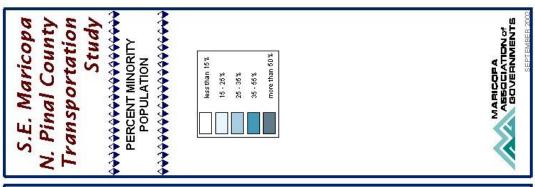
The highest concentrations of population over age 60 occur south of US 60 in Pinal County, east of SR 79, in the Sun Lakes area, and Leisure World.

The majority of the study area has less than 15 percent of the population at the poverty level. However, there are areas where 35 percent or more of the population are at the poverty level. This includes much of the Gila River Indian Community and an area south of Casa Grande.

Figures 8 through 12 demonstrate that that there are areas within the study area that have high percentages of the populations protected under Title VI. As alternatives are developed and evaluated during the study, impacts to these populations will be considered. The evaluation will help ensure that these populations are not disproportionately adversely affected by the recommendations in the Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County Area Transportation Study.

This study is intended to improve mobility, which will serve and benefit the residents of the study area regardless of their census population classification.

Figure 8: Percent Minority Population



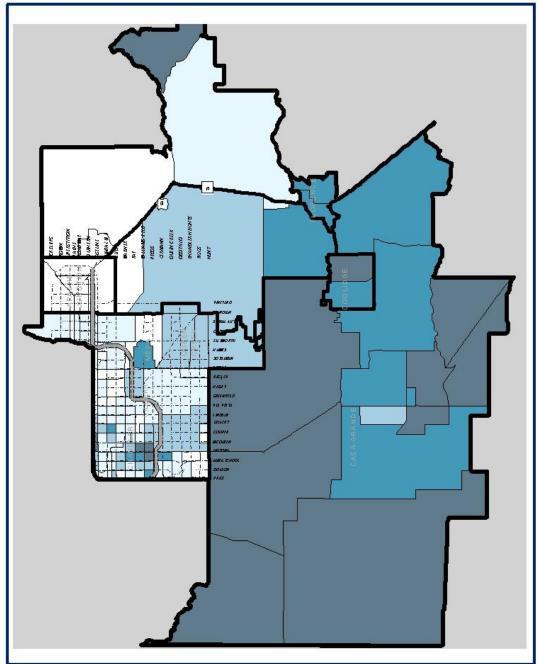
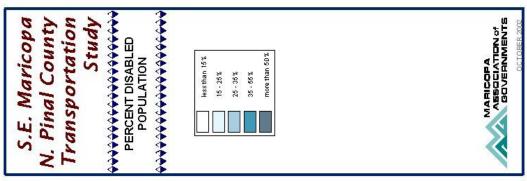


Figure 9: Percent Disabled Population



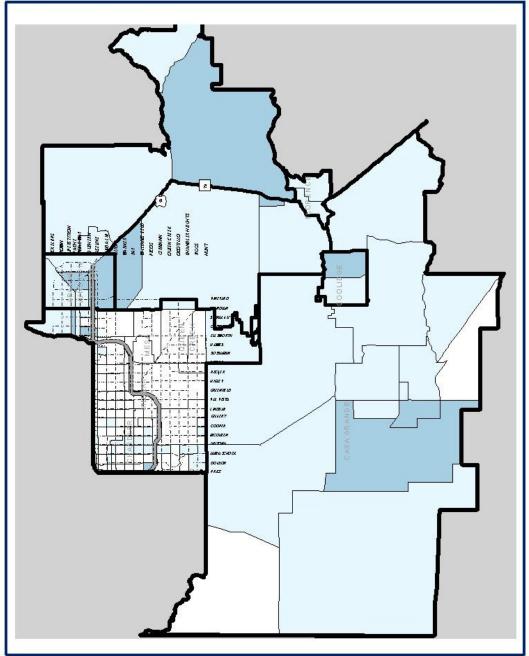


Figure 10: Percent Single Female Head of Household

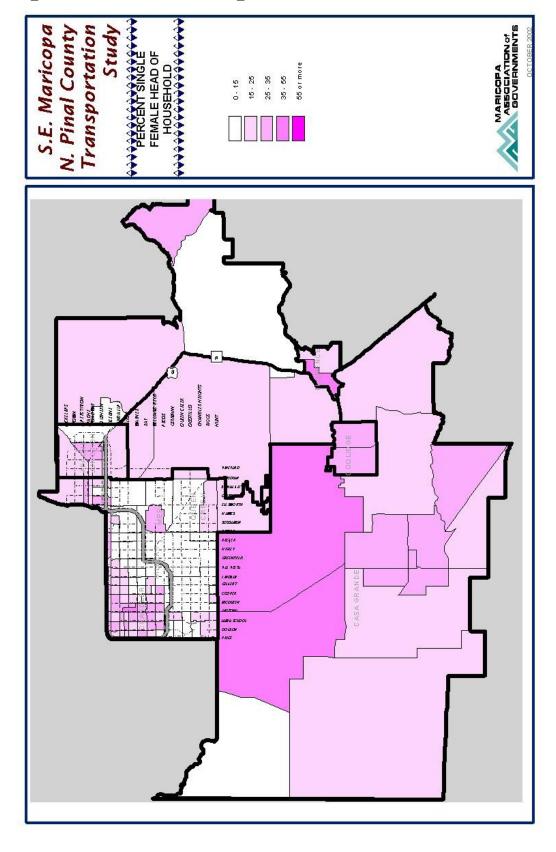


Figure 11: Percent Population Below Poverty

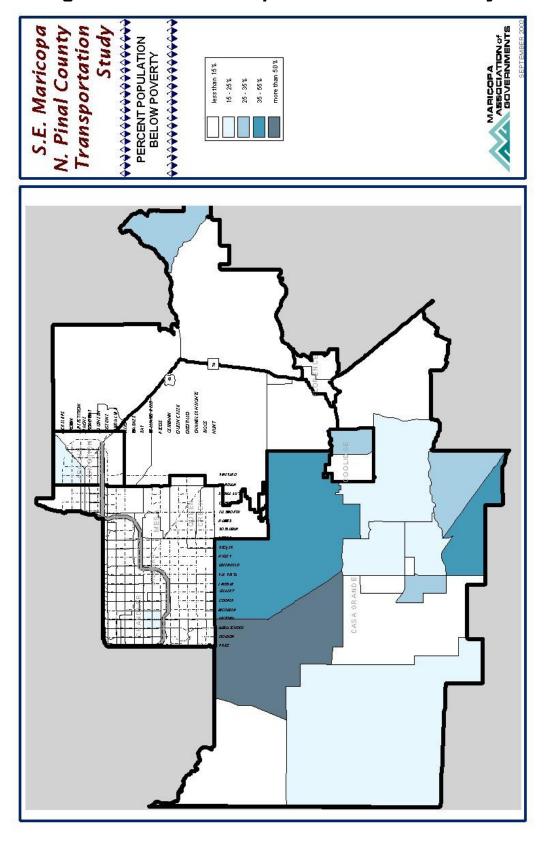


Figure 12: Percent Population Over Age 60

